

REMARKS

Claims 1-68 are pending and at issue in the present application. Claims 1-55 stand rejected as obvious over varying combinations of Dooley U.S. Patent No. 6,257,566, Graushar U.S. Patent No. 5,100,116, or Weller U.S. Patent No. 4,989,850 and Warmus *et al.* U.S. Patent Nos. 6,327,599 and 5,963,968. Claim 7 has been amended to correct a typographical error. Claims 56-68 are added by the present amendment. The present amendments do not introduce any new matter. Support for claims 56-61 can be found at least at page 9, lines 3-6 of the specification. Similarly, support for claims 62-68 can be found at least at page 4, lines 26-29 of the specification.

Applicants respectfully traverse all of the pending rejections of claims 1-55.

With respect to the rejections of claims 1-55, applicants respectfully reiterate the arguments presented in the Office action Response E filed on January 17, 2008. To summarize, Dooley and Graushar teach the use of conventional bindery line controllers and Weller is silent regarding a controller. In particular, Dooley teaches “[a] controller 26, which is preferably a programmable logic controller or a similar controller of the type commonly employed in printing operations, controls the operation of the binding line 12.” (Dooley, col. 3, line 65 to col. 4, line 1.) Similarly, Graushar discloses that “[t]he collating and binding system generally described above is conventionally controlled by a conventional computer or programmable controller 31, the details of which are omitted as they do not form the essence of the invention.” (Graushar, col. 4, lines 36-40.)

As argued in the remarks of the Response E and the declaration of Mr. Michael Sittinger under 37 C.F.R. § 1.132 the ink jet heads disclosed in the cited art inherently includes a speed tracking device that receives timing information from a binding line to enable the ink jet head to synchronize the printing speed thereof with the speed of the binding line. The speed of the ink jet head is synchronized to the speed of the binding line (i.e., the gathering chain) using such timing information. In contrast, the amount of time necessary for the demand print system (i.e., the variable print engine, the RIP, the demand printer, etc) to generate a particular signature varies in accordance with the complexity of the pages that comprise the signature. Therefore, to ensure that a signature of a book may be available at the gathering line when such signature is required, “the controller 100 orders a variable signature earlier in the production sequence so that the signature can be produced in

time to meet the other book components at the proper place on the gathering line.” (Page 9, lines 6-7 of the specification). Such additional control functions are not disclosed by the cited art, and are not available in the conventional controllers disclosed thereby. In the Office action of February 12, 2008, the examiner states that “[i]t is well known in the art for printers to communicate and synchronize with gathering lines and/or feeding devices.” However, as noted above, such controllers are not disclosed in the art cited by the examiner and the examiner cites no further art that teaches that such controllers were known prior to the present invention. Therefore, the applicants respectfully submit that none of the prior art cited by the examiner, either alone or in combination, teaches or suggests a controller that controls the operation of a gathering line, feeding device, and a demand printer as recited by claims 1-35, 43-48, and 55. The applicants further submit that none of the prior art cited by the examiner teaches or suggests a step of coordinating simultaneous operation of a gathering line, a demand printer, and a feeding device during a production sequence to produce books as recited by claims 36-42 and 49-54.

Added claims 56-61 are directed to a book production apparatus that comprises a gathering line, a feeding system for feeding printed signatures to the gathering line, and a demand print system for printing and supplying to the feeding device consecutive first and second printed signatures, wherein the amount of time required to print the first signature is substantially different than the amount of time required to print the second signature. Claims 56-61 also recite a controller for coordinating the operation of the gathering line, the feeding device, and the demand printer to produce books.

Added claims 62-68 recite a book production apparatus that comprises a gathering line, a feeding device for feeding signatures to the gathering line, first and second demand printers for printing and supplying first and second signatures to the feeding device, respectively, and a controller for coordinating the operation of the gathering line, the feeding device, and the first and second demand printers to produce books.

For reasons identical to those supplied above with respect to claims 1-55, none of the art cited by the examiner teaches or suggests an apparatus for book production comprising a controller for coordinating the operation of a gathering line, a feeding device, and a demand print system for

producing books as recited by claims 56-61 or a controller for coordinating the operation of a gathering line, a feeding device, and first and second demand printers as recited by claims 62-68.

In addition, none of Dooley, Graushar, Weller, or Warmus *et al.* '599 and '968 teaches or suggests an apparatus for book production comprising a demand print system for printing and supplying to a feeding device consecutive first and second printed signatures, wherein the amount of time required to print the first signature is substantially different than the amount of time required to print the second signature as recited by claims 56-61.

Furthermore, none of the cited art by the examiner discloses or suggests first and second demand printers for printing and supplying first and second signatures, respectively, to a feeding device as recited by claims 62-68.

The Supreme Court has held that the teaching, suggestion, motivation ("TSM") test should not be strictly applied. *KSR Int'l Co. v. Teleflex Inc.*, 127 S. Ct 1727,1741 (2007). However, the Court also noted that "a patent composed of several elements is not proved obvious merely by demonstrating that each of its elements was, independently, known in the prior art." *Id.* Instead, "it can be important to identify a reason that would have prompted a person of ordinary skill in the relevant field to combine the elements in the way the claimed new invention does." *Id.* The examiner has not stated any reasons why a person of ordinary skill in the art would have been prompted to combine any of the cited art to arrive at the subject matter recited by the claims at issue.

Further, to support a *prima facie* case of obviousness based on a combination of prior art elements, an examiner must establish "a finding that the prior art included each element claimed, although not necessarily in a single prior art reference, with the only difference between the claimed invention and the prior art being the lack of actual combination of the elements in a single prior art reference." Examination Guidelines for Determining Obviousness Under 35 U.S.C. 103 in View of the Supreme Court Decision in *KSR International Co. v. Teleflex Inc.* 72 Fed. Reg. 57,526 (Oct. 10, 2007). The cited art, alone or in combination, does not disclose or suggest each of the elements recited by the claims at issue.

Furthermore, at least a reasonable expectation of success in combining prior art references is required to render an invention obvious. *In re Merck & Co.*, 800 F.2d 1091, 1096 (Fed. Cir.1986).

There is no suggestion that a person of ordinary skill in the art could have successfully combined any of Graushar, Dooley, or Weller with Warmus *et al.* '599 or '968 to arrive at the subject matter recited by claims at issue. Specifically, a combination of a well known controller with the demand printers of the Warmus *et. al.* '599 or '968 as suggested in the Office action would not result in a book production apparatus as recited by the claims at issue. Rather, such combination would result in an inoperable device or a device that would be unable to coordinate the operation of the gathering line, one or more demand printer(s), and the feeding device to produce books.

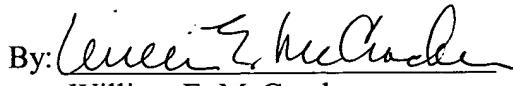
Therefore, it follows that the claimed subject matter is not rendered obvious by the cited art. For the foregoing reasons, reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejections of the claims and allowance thereof are respectfully requested. An early and favorable action on the merits is respectfully requested.

Deposit Account Authorization

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any deficiency in any amount enclosed or any additional fees which may be required during the pendency of this application under 37 CFR 1.16 or 1.17, except issue fees, to Deposit Account No. 50-1903.

Respectfully submitted,

McCracken & Frank LLP
311 S. Wacker, Suite 2500
Chicago, Illinois 60606
(312) 263-4700

By: 
William E. McCracken
Reg. No: 30,195

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